

FEBRUARY
Vol 296



THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

AIMS OF THE CLUB

1. To study all branches of Natural History.
2. Preservation of the Flora and Fauna of Queensland.
3. Encouragement of a spirit of protection towards native birds, animals and plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newsletter and post it to members.

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at QCWA Rooms at 8.00pm.
Outings: The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each Month.
Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum July to June.
Rent : Donation per family per meeting.
Address: Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club Inc., P.O. Box 154, Stanthorpe Q 4380.

CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 1997 - 98

President	Kris Carnell	07 46 835268
Vice-Presidents	Roger Logan	07 46 812493
	Lincoln McPhee	07 46 811651
Secretary	Liz Bourne	07 46 836374
Treasurer	Julia Brown	07 46 814540
Newsletter Editor	Robin McCosker	07 46 835371
Magazine Committee	Wendy & Neil Donges, Julie Beddow	
Publicity Officer	Patience James	07 46 811853
Librarian	Trish McCosker	07 46 835371
Management Committee	President , Vice-Presidents , Secretary , Treasurer	

COMING UP

Next Outing Teviot Falls, Main Range, February 22nd ; Leaders Alan and Diane Jones; meet at Queen Mary Falls Picnic Area at 9.00am.

Next Meeting Canning Stock Route W.A. presented by John Bourne
Wednesday 25th February at the QCWA Rooms Stanthorpe.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER

10th MARCH 1998

Send contributions to The Newsletter Editor, P O Box 24, Severnlea Q4352
or leave with Mrs Dore McCosker, 58 Railway St., Stanthorpe.

SCALE OF DIFFICULTY FOR WALKS ON NATS OUTINGS

- 1 Flat walking, road or track.
- 2 Road or track, gentle hills.
- 3 Track, some hilly sections.
- 4 Track, some steep sections.
- 5 Cross country, easy open forest, gentle slopes.
- 6 Track, steep sections common, with steps.
- 7 Cross country, some hills, some thick undergrowth.
- 8 Cross country, steep sections with scrambles over rocks etc., and some thick undergrowth.
- 9 Cross country, steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth.
- 10 Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required.



MINUTES OF MEETING OF STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC.
held in QCWA Rooms, Victoria St., Stanthorpe on 26th November 1997

Opening: The meeting opened at 8.07pm with President, Kris Carnell, welcoming members.

Attendance: There were 20 present and 7 apologies, as per the attendance book.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22nd October 1997 were received as a correct record of the meeting on the motion of Desley McDonagh, seconded by Roger Logan. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes: Roger Logan suggested the account from Matrix Office Systems for the photocopier needed clarification again before payment was made and Julia said she would visit their office when she was next in Toowoomba to try and sort it out.

Correspondence:

- Inwards:**
1. Landcare Qld - National Heritage Trust Fund application for funding
 2. Vince Allen - advice of his absence on holidays
 3. N & J Beddow - membership renewal
 4. Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club - *Footprint* - Oct. '97
 5. Australian Conservation Foundation - raffle tickets
 6. Qld Naturalists Club - *QNC News* - Nov/Dec '97
 7. Toowoomba Field Naturalists - *Darling Downs Naturalist* - Oct '97
 8. Stanthorpe Shire Council - Texas Road Transfer Station
 9. Matrix Office Systems - invoice for \$50
 10. Chinchilla Field Naturalists - *Urimbirra* - Oct '97 and Nov '97
 11. Directory of Australian Associations - re update
 12. Kingfisher Bay Resort, Fraser Island - re conference facilities
 13. Stanthorpe Shire Council - invitation to Christmas function
 14. Who's Who in Australia - invitation to purchase
 15. J.Evans - membership subscription
 16. International Parktours - brochure
 17. Stanthorpe Shire Council - invitation to Clean up Australia 2001 meeting
 18. Office of Consumer Affairs - further info required on annual return
 19. Department of Environment - Annual Report

- Outwards:**
1. Community Service announcements for outing and meeting

This correspondence was received on the motion of Liz Bourne, seconded by Neil Donges. Carried.

Business arising out of correspondences:

1. Texas Road transfer station - The Stanthorpe Shire Council has accepted the Club's offer to undertake landscaping work at the transfer station and Kris Carnell and Liz Bourne met on site with Deputy Shire Engineer, Chris Loveday, to discuss the siting of the work and the materials that would be required. It was agreed that Council will supply topsoil and offcut timber for the beds while the Club will provide labour and plants.
2. Stanthorpe Shire Council Christmas Function - It was decided that Desley McDonagh and Patience James would represent the Club at this function on the 10th December.
3. Invitation to Clean up Australia 2001 Meeting - Unfortunately, as this meeting was being held on the night of the club meeting, no one from the Field Naturalists Club

was able to attend. Kris said that the Shire Council was investigating a proposal to clean up and landscape the Stanthorpe by-pass environs.

Financial Statement for the period 22/10/97 to 26/11/97:

Balance as at 22/10/97		\$1020.35
<u>Receipts:</u>	Subscriptions	38.00
	Room rent collection	<u>19.30</u>
		<u>57.30</u>
		<u>57.30</u>
		<u>1077.65</u>
<u>Expenditure:</u>	Room rent	10.00
	Matrix Office Systems	50.00
	Govt. tax	<u>1.20</u>
		<u>61.20</u>
		<u>(61.20)</u>
		<u>\$1016.45</u>

Balance as at 26/11/97 is \$1016.45

Accounts for payment:

Room rent	\$10.00
Magazine postage	\$39.40
Matrix Office Systems	\$50.00
(to be checked before payment)	

The financial statement was adopted on the motion of Julia Brown, seconded by Errol Walker. Carried.

Outing Report: Geoff Walker reported on his outing to West Bald Rock on the 23rd November which attracted 23 participants.

Christmas Breakup: This has been scheduled for Heritage Park beside Quatpot Creek on Sunday the 7th December starting at 4.00pm.

January Outing: It is proposed to visit Nundubbermere Falls on the Severn River on Sunday, 18th January. Details about the trip will be published in "The Border Post" in the preceding week.

Specimens:

1. Vern Sullivan had a rock embedded in mud from the southern shore of Lake Eyre: chips of rock from the southern approach to the Lake and a rock from near Warwick which reads strongly to a metal detector.
2. Desley McDonagh had photos from the outing to West Bald Rock.
3. Liz Bourne had two books of interest to members, *National Parks Association Guide to the National Parks of Northern New South Wales* and *A Guide to Northeastern New South Wales - Walking, Canoeing, Caving, Climbing* by the Uni. of New England Mountaineering Club which members could borrow if they were planning trips to this region.

General Business:

1. Neil Donges said that the seats in Heritage Park were in need of attention as the wood was starting to rot.
2. Errol Walker gave more details of his proposed trip to Vanuatu next Easter and said 10 people had already booked seats. The closing date for advance bookings is the 7th December so anyone interested should contact him. Depending on the interest shown, he may run another trip next September.

Presentation: Vic Torrens, the Officer in Charge at the Stanthorpe Ambulance Service, then gave a very useful and informative talk on First Aid issues of interest to members, particularly those likely to be encountered in the bush.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Coming Attractions

MARCH	21st 22nd Campout to Lost World Lamington , leader Fred Simpson. 25th Meeting Program - Touring Overseas with Errol and Annette Walker.
APRIL	19th Outing to Acacia Plateau , leader Millie Marsden. 22nd Meeting - Nostalgia with Millie Marsden.

OUTING REPORT WEST BALD ROCK

23 people met at Lions Park Wallangarra at 8.30am for the days climb to West Bald Rock. A fifteen minute drive found us at the stone entrance to the stone house. After smoko we headed off with our first stop being the abandoned stone house which, with every visit, is showing more signs of deterioration. Four people headed back to the cars with the remaining party now following a national parks fire maintenance trail.

As we followed the trail and nearing the ridge we were to follow to the top, an owl was spotted flying away from the base of a fence post near the trail. On further inspection, a young owl was found on the ground still too young to fly or fend for itself. We then climbed through the fence and followed the ridge stopping along the way to take in the various vantage points which afforded good views into the valley below and on reaching the top of the ridge before turning for the final ascent, a good view across to Middle Rock.

We reached the summit at around 12.30 pm and as people at this stage were becoming quite hungry, found a sheltered spot for lunch. After lunch and a wander around we headed back for the cars and this is where the day began to go not as planned.

Following the ridge down I allowed myself to drift to the left on what was a different ridge to the one I had followed up and on reaching the bottom the surrounding scenery did not look familiar. After walking some distance we found ourselves on an old trail which ended back to the border fence. At this stage I was not sure which direction to head and after finding a vantage point, taking compass reading and sending out a scouting party, we found ourselves heading in the right direction. Following the trail we came across ^{at} times that Colin Hocking ,who had left the party at the top of West Bald a little earlier than us, had scratched into the ground and revealed that he had passed by almost three hours earlier. With the sun fast disappearing we arrived back at the cars at almost 6.30pm some two hours later than was anticipated. Thankyou to everyone who attended the day and I hope I am forgiven.

Geoff Walker

PS As I have now found employment in Toowoomba, my involvement in the club will not be what it was so I take this opportunity to wish the Club and members all the best for the future.

All the best to you too, Geoff, in your career and relocation to Toowoomba although you needn't have taken such drastic action just because you were home two hours late on a bushwalk !! Editor.

Outing Report - Nundubbermere Falls

About 45 people including many new faces turned up for the trip to the falls on 18/1/98. It was surprising how many people had never been there although it isn't far from Stanthorpe. Before we set off, Millie gave an excellent description of how a convoy travels through a series of gates. This was put to the practical test and found to work well.

The falls were only a short distance from the carpark but the track was too rugged for some. Quite a few people went swimming, some walked up to the falls and some went back to the cars up a side gully. Some recent rain had brought a small flow to this creek.

Some folk drove up to the top falls where another group went swimming. The rock formations here have some large cylindrical holes and are locally known as Koina's Tanks, wittingly named after a Stanthorpe plumber. Here Colin Hocking's father discovered a plant he said was previously unknown in Queensland, a species of *Correa*. Colin found a Burton's legless lizard, with its distinctively shaped head, about 40cm long.

Although no birdlist was kept on the outing the birds listed below were sighted on the pre-outing.

Plover	Noisy minor
Magpie	Straw necked ibis
Swallows	Eagle
Kookaburra	Dollar bird
Currawong	Bronze-wing pidgeon
Eastern rosella	Apostle bird
Willie wagtail	Pacific black duck
Jacky winter	Peewee
Starling	Diamond firetail finch
Yellow faced honeyeater	Scarlet honeyeater
Brown honeyeater	Crow
Grey crowned babbler	Double-barred finch
Dusky woodswallow	White plumed honeyeater

Roger Logan Outing Leader

Care for Injured Wildlife

The following people are licenced with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to take and care for injured wildlife -

Joan Anderson	46 832486	Allison Barraclough	46 836375
Betty Balch	46 832271	Kirsten Tunbridge	46 814229

Pre-outing Report - Teviot Falls

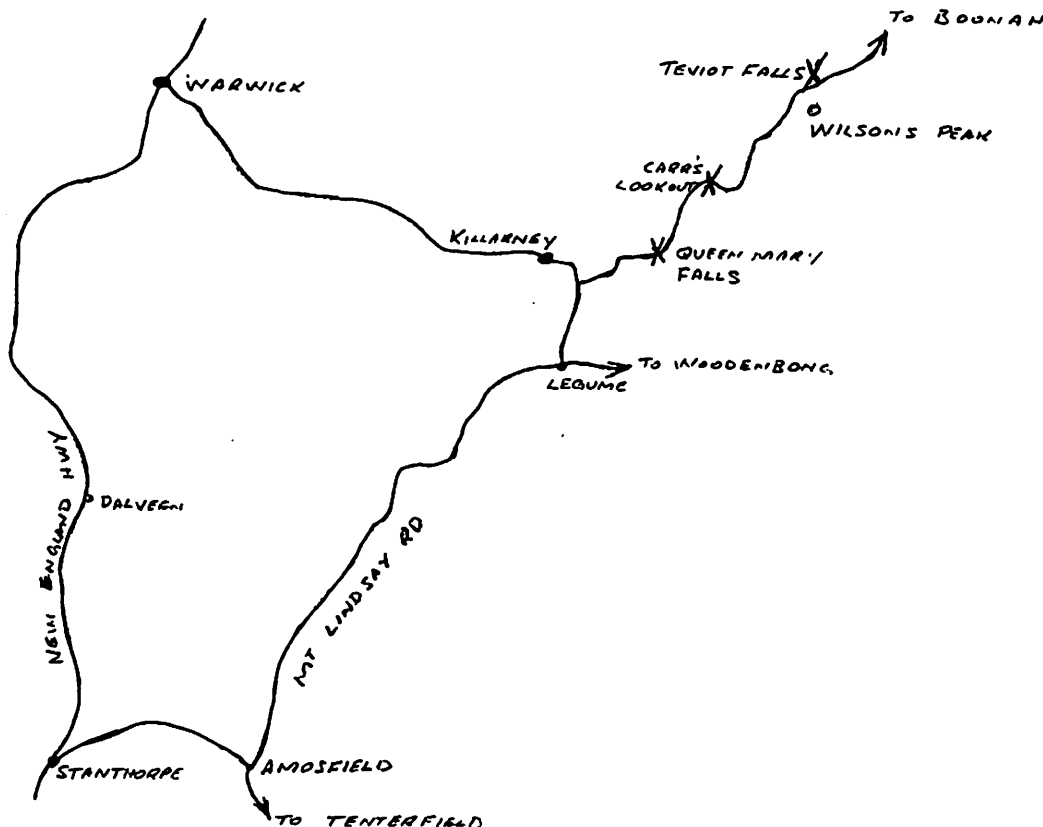
The February outing is to the Teviot Falls on the Main Range. Meet at 9.00am, at the Queen Mary Falls Picnic Area. The shortest and more scenic route is via the Mt. Lindsay Road, turn right 6km past Legume then a further 6km to Queen Mary Falls. Alternatively, drive to Warwick, then Killarney and turn left 4 km past Killarney. Allow about an hour to get there.

The forestry access road is off the Boonah Road, past Carr's Lookout. Wilson's Peak is on the right. The Superbus Map marks the south branch of Teviot Brook as Teviot Falls. We will be heading for the north branch which has the lovely 'bath tub' pool just in from the lip of the falls, and an impressive view of Wilson's Peak.

We enter the rainforest from the forestry track, cross the south branch of the creek and stay parallel with the cliff line up to the north branch. We could have lunch at the pool. The water would be unsuitable to drink as it flows through cleared pastures etc. Please note - ticks leeches and mosquitoes are a problem at times.

The walk is not a long one but the edges are very steep - I took one giant step from the top to the side of the creek ! We will bring a rope to use as an aid. Scale of difficulty - 7.

It is a beautiful spot and well worth the trouble to go there. For any further information please ring the leaders - Alan and Diane Jones, 07 46 612960.



Christmas Breakup

Our Breakup, on Sunday the 7th December, was a bit of a fiasco, the Stanthorpe weather behaving as only Stanthorpe can.

The day had been very hot, so only a few people turned up at 4 o'clock at Heritage Park to walk up the creek to the Red Bridge. Most came much later just to meet everybody else and have a barbeque tea. There were about forty people in all as cooking got under way, and at the same time the sky quickly clouded over and a cool wind came up to make it more pleasant.

About half the people had had their fill when the clouds opened up making things very cold and uncomfortable, so there was a hurried exodus for cars and home. The party was over in a flash, and incidently there was no more rain that evening.



Burton's legless lizard

This lizard, which Col Hocking found on the Nundubbermere Falls outing, is often mistaken for a snake. Its botanical name is *Lialis burtonis*, and it belongs to a family that is endemic to Australia and New Guinea. It is found throughout Australia, in ground or low-lying vegetative habitats - I have occasionally turned one up in the compost heap. Usually it is active at night, although as it hunts worms, geckos and skinks it is often seen during the late afternoon and early morning. It will grow up to 70cm in length, and like many lizards it is able to drop its tail if grabbed there, but its best form of defence is its camouflage.

I found this information in the book *The Cold-Blooded Australians* by Gunther Schmida.

Rob McCosker.

